

July 3, 2010

Eight Swan Rangers hiked Hemler Creek Trail #20 to North Hemler Basin Saturday. They had a quick snack in the cliffs above North Hemler Creek before heading back to avoid exposure to lightning from an approaching thunderstorm, though a bit of rain did manage to find them!

The Hemler Creek Trail begins at the end of the left fork of the Peters Ridge Road, sometimes called the Trail Creek Road, at the parking area near the Trail Creek bridge. The first several miles is an old, closed road leading to a ridge, from where the trail heads through old growth forest into South and then North Hemler Creek above Lake Blaine.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for **breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30** for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you soon,

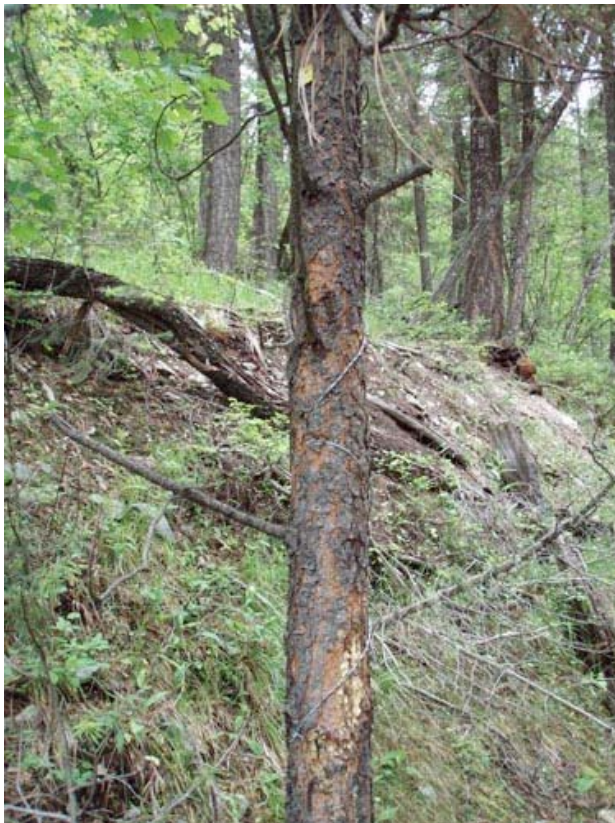


Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Swan Rangers pose next to one of several "bear rub trees" along the road and trail.



Note the small yellow tag on the tree, marking barbed wire below that captures bear hair for DNA analysis and population trend monitoring.



The trail skirts an old logging unit at the end of the old road . . .



. . . but soon heads north to great views of Lake Blaine and an approaching thunder storm!



Is that a really cool mushroom or a geodesic hailstone?



Penstemon and alumroot embrace a young fir tree while fireweed waits to bloom.